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To  
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON COAL (1959)

Submission of

DISTRICT 18  
UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA



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Calgary, Alberta,  
March 31st, 1960.

Mr. I. C. Rand,  
Commissioner,  
Royal Commission on Coal (1959)

Sir:

District 18, United Mine Workers of America, represents the organized mine workers of the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, and the employees of two mines in Saskatchewan. It was first organized in 1903, and signed its first Agreement in that year with the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, Limited, at Fernie, British Columbia. In the following years it signed contracts with other coal companies and in 1907 held its first joint conference in the City of Calgary where an Agreement was consummated with several coal companies then operating in Alberta and Southeastern British Columbia.

At the present time District 18, United Mine Workers of America, is the bargaining agent for all employees of the Companies listed below who are operating mines in Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan:

Canadian Collieries Resources Ltd., Cumberland, B. C.  
Manitoba & Saskatchewan Coal Co. Ltd., Bienfait, Sask.  
North West Coal Co., Bienfait, Sask.  
The Coal Operators Association of Western Canada whose member companies are:

Canmore Mines Ltd., Canmore, Alta.  
Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. Ltd., Fernie, B.C.  
(Mine at Michel, B.C.)  
Coleman Collieries Ltd., Coleman, Alta.  
West Canadian Collieries Ltd.  
(Greenhill Mine at Blairmore, Alta.  
Bellevue Mine, Bellevue, Alta.)  
Lethbridge Collieries Ltd., #10 Mine, Shaughnessy, Alta.



The Drumheller Coal Operators Association whose member companies are:

Atlas Coal Co. Ltd., East Coulee, Alta.  
Amalgamated Coals Ltd., Western Monarch, Alta.  
Federated Co-operatives Ltd., Drumheller, Alta.  
(Hy-Grade Mine)  
Red Deer Valley Coal Co. Ltd., Drumheller, Alta.

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In the year 1946 production had reached its peak in Alberta, and the decline in production from 1946 to 1958 is shown as follows:

PRODUCTION OF COAL FOR PROVINCES OF ALBERTA  
BRITISH COLUMBIA & SASKATCHEWAN

<u>Year</u>	<u>Alberta</u>	<u>British Columbia</u>	<u>Saskatchewan</u>	<u>Total Production</u>
1946	8,826,311	1,638,424	1,523,489	11,988,224
1947	8,070,430	1,763,899	1,571,149	11,405,478
1948	8,123,255	1,780,334	1,585,843	11,489,432
1949	8,616,855	1,906,963	1,870,487	12,394,305
1950	8,116,220	1,730,445	2,203,223	12,049,888
1951	7,659,329	1,739,412	2,223,318	11,622,059
1952	7,194,757	1,644,250	2,083,465	10,922,472
1953	5,917,474	1,443,006	2,021,304	9,381,784
1954	4,859,049	1,299,510	2,114,932	8,273,491
1955	4,445,279	1,453,881	2,294,987	8,204,147
1956	4,328,787	1,472,519	2,343,136	8,144,442
1957	3,156,546	1,121,430	2,243,776	6,526,752
1958	2,518,118	841,603	2,254,048	5,613,769

Source - Dominion Bureau of Statistics

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In the same period of time the following coal Companies, with which District 18, United Mine Workers of America, had contracts, closed down:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Coal Company</u>	<u>Date of Mine Closure</u>
Wabumun, Alta.	Lakeside Coals Ltd.	June, 1948
Mountain Park, Alta.	Mountain Park Coals Ltd.	June, 1950
Newcastle, Alta.	Newcastle Collieries	Sept., 1950
Gregg River, Alta.	K-D Collieries Ltd.	May, 1951
Bellevue, Alta.	Hillcrest-Mohawk Coal Co. (Mohawk Mine)	Feb., 1952
Coalspur, Alta.	King Coal & Lumber Co.	Feb., 1952
Saunders, Alta.	Bighorn & Saunders Creek Collieries Ltd.	April, 1952
Cadomin, Alta.	Cadomin Coal Co. Ltd.	July, 1952
Kananaskis, Alta.	Kananaskis Coal Co.	Dec., 1952
Three Hills, Alta.	Inland Coal Co. Ltd.	March, 1953
Nanaimo, B. C.	Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Ltd.	Nov., 1953
Princeton, B. C.	Princeton Tulameen Coal Co. & Tulameen Collieries	Jan., 1954
Coleman, Alta.	International Coal & Coke Co.Ltd.	March, 1954
Mile 32 (Robb), Alta.	Lakeside Collieries Ltd.	March, 1954
Nordegg, Alta.	Brazeau Collieries Ltd.	Jan., 1955
Alexo, Alta.	Alexo Coal Company	Feb., 1955
Edmonton, Alta.	Edmonton Collieries, Red Hot Coal Company, & Riverdale Coal Co.	Feb., 1955



Cambria, Alta.	Western Gem & Jewel Coal Co. Ltd.	March, 1956
Commander, Alta.	Commander Mine	August, 1956
Luscar, Alta.	Luscar Coals	Oct., 1956
Aerial, Alta.	Rosedale Collieries Ltd.	Feb., 1957
Lethbridge, Alta.	Lethbridge Collieries (#8 Mine) and Hamilton Coal Co.	April, 1957
Wayne, Alta.	Sovereign Coals Ltd.	Feb., 1957
Blairmore, Alta.	West Canadian Collieries (Greenhill Mine) since re-opened with reduced crew	April, 1957
Fernie, B. C.	Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. Ltd.	Jan., 1958
Foothills, Alta.	Canadian Collieries Resources Ltd.	Feb., 1958
Drumheller, Alta.	Brilliant Coal Company	April, 1958
Rosedale, Alta.	Rosedale Collieries Ltd.	May, 1958
Carbon, Alta.	East Carbon Coal Co.	May, 1958
East Coulee, Alta.	Murray Collieries Ltd.	April, 1959
Drumheller, Alta.	Midland Coal Company	March, 1959
Mercoal, Alta.	Canadian Collieries Resources Ltd.	July, 1959

In addition to the aforementioned, the following mines in the Estevan-Bienfait Coal Field of the Province of Saskatchewan were closed down in the year 1951:

Estevan, Sask.	Jenish Brothers
Estevan, Sask.	Havanah Collieries Ltd.
Bienfait, Sask.	Eastern Collieries
Bienfait, Sask.	Banner Coal Co.
Bienfait, Sask.	North Star Coal Mine
Estevan, Sask.	Tidsdale Mine





These companies closed their operations through loss of markets, due to dieselization of railroads, competition of gas and oil, and the importation of American coal into the large industrial areas in Ontario.

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The tonnages of coal imported from the United States from 1946, which was peak year in Western Canada coal production, to 1958 inclusive, was as follows:

IMPORTS OF COAL FROM THE UNITED STATES & GREAT BRITAIN 1946 to 1958

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>% of Consumption</u>
1946	25,740,704	61
1947	28,462,242	66
1948	30,454,917	64
1949	21,833,057	54.7
1950	26,649,049	59.4
1951	26,523,921	60.2
1952	24,603,789	59.5
1953	22,900,392	60
1954	18,322,056	56
1955	19,490,013	
1956	23,120,300	
1957	20,002,075	
1958	13,361,810	

Source: Dominion Bureau of Statistics

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In the year 1946, the peak year for production in Western Canada, District 18, United Mine Workers of America, recorded a membership of 9500 employees who were steadily employed in the Coal Mining Industry. Due to closures of mines as aforementioned, our membership declined to approximately 2700 in 1953. The membership further declined in 1959 to 2300 through the closing of the Midland Mine at Drumheller, Alta.; the Murray Mine at East Coulee, Alta.; and the mine at Mercoal, Alta.

This has brought about a serious situation of unemployment among the members of our Organization and in a great number of instances Unemployment Insurance benefits have been depleted and it has been necessary for members to apply for relief. It is admitted however that of the approximately 7000 members who have been forced out of the industry since 1946, the younger men who are adaptable to other types of employment have found employment in other industries (and it would appear that the experienced youth have been lost to the Coal Mining Industry).

The men in the older age brackets of 45 years and over, who are fully qualified miners and forced out of the industry after giving 25 - 30 years service, and who find it practically impossible to find employment in other industries, have no other recourse than to accept Unemployment Insurance benefits until such benefits become depleted. Then the only avenue left for them is to seek relief assistance from the Government of the Province in which they reside.





There are also a large number of persons whose employment directly depends on the Coal Industry, namely: Lumber employees who supply timber to the mines; Manufacturing employees who supply various types of equipment used in the coal mines; and Railway employees who have lost their employment through declining coal markets.

In the Coal Mining Camps in Western Canada by the loss of employment of our members, the resultant loss of payroll has been appalling in the past few years. The closure of mines and slack periods of work has affected not only the men themselves, but their families. Large numbers of families affected owned their own homes and property. With no employment available due to the closing of mines, they were forced to leave their homes, for which they had striven the better years of their lives to own, with no hope of any financial recovery, as camps listed previously as having closed down are now ghost towns.

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The Alberta Provincial Government set up a Rehabilitation Fund of \$100,000 to which was added a further \$50,000 for the purpose of rehabilitating miners from distressed areas to other centres, by the payment for moving of household effects. This procedure of moving the population from deserted coal mining areas to larger urban centres was no solution, as the older miner above referred to found it exceptionally difficult to gain employment in other industries due to age and trade qualifications.



The United Mine Workers of America believe that the Dominion Government has a great responsibility to continue to extend every assistance to the industry and assist in finding markets to place the industry in an economic position whereby the industry will be able to survive and give full and continuous employment to all its employees.

The extensive mine closures in recent years represent a definite loss to the Canadian economy, which cannot be recovered as experience has proven the economic impossibility of re-opening a mine.

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During the Second Great War, there was a serious shortage of coal in Canada, and both the Coal Operators and the Membership of District 18, United Mine Workers of America, were pressed by the Government to produce more coal. The Coal Mining Industry in war time was placed on an emergency basis and personnel employed were somewhat protected to the extent that large numbers of men were released from the Army to take employment in coal mines. Others who had coal mining experience were directed to return to the coal mines from other industries in order that coal production could be increased.

The aforementioned situation was somewhat paralleled in the First Great War and such a situation during a war emergency could very well arise in the future. It should be mentioned that coal mines cannot be developed overnight, and by the same measure,





experienced coal miners can only be trained over a lengthy period. It is suggested that the Coal Mining Industry is an absolute necessity to our National welfare and existence. It is definitely essential and preferable that the Federal Government preserve the Industry in the interests of Canada as a nation, having regard to the large Coal reserves in Western Canada, which will be stated and elaborated on in the Briefs presented to the Commission by the Coal Operators and the Provincial Governments of Western Canada in connection with the serious situation which exists in the Coal Mining Industry, and which involves the livelihood of many thousands of our members.

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Numerous representations have been made to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys in the past number of years on behalf of the membership of our Organization. Our views are that imports of coal from the United States of America to Canada, amounting to millions of tons per year (Refer to Coal Imports from the United States and Great Britain), should not be allowed while experienced coal miners are being deprived of their livelihood.

The Bituminous Section of the Industry has found some relief in the past years by exporting coal to Japan for coking and metallurgical purposes. The Federal Government has assisted by increasing the subsidy from \$4.00 to \$4.50 per ton. It is to be hoped that the Japanese steel industry will require greater quantities of coal from Western Canada in the future.



The Federal Government should continue the present subsidy and increase this subsidy if economic and market conditions warrant it. The Industry could be further assisted by the Federal Government by their co-operation in developing export markets for Western Canadian Coal.

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We believe the principle contained in the use of coal for Thermal Power production, in the long term view, will be the basic solution of many of the difficulties facing the Coal Industry at the present. Building Thermal Power Plants close to the mines will definitely eliminate transportation costs, and according to all reports this type of development is advancing very rapidly in the Province of New Brunswick and the United States.

It is also suggested that in the initial stages of Thermal Power development that the Governments should contribute to the initial costs of building such plants, and in addition thereto, the Federal Government could enter into a long term arrangement of say five years, during which period a reasonable subsidy per ton should be paid for all coal so used in order that such plants be given a period of time to consolidate themselves, in order that coal can successfully compete with natural gas and oil in the interim period.

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The Commission should give serious consideration to assisting the Domestic Coal Section of the Industry, which could





be relieved by transportation costs being reduced, or the payment of transportation subsidies by the Government to all areas where Western Canadian Domestic Coal is sold.

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The above portion of this Brief is relative to the economic situation as pertains to coal mining areas in Western Canada, and clarifies for you Mr. Commissioner the hardships which our membership have encountered since 1946. The following part of our submission has been broadened to cover conditions in the Coal Mining Industry of Canada in general.

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The chaos existing in Canadian coal can be classed as nothing less than a national emergency. The economic degeneration evident in the coal fields in both the Eastern and Western Provinces is so appalling that it poses a grave threat, not only to those areas directly involved, but also to the national welfare of the Dominion.

During the past ten years coal production has decreased sharply in all producing provinces. This plummeting output in the face of a general increase in total energy consumption points to the serious competitive relationship under which the the industry must operate.

A brief analysis of the major problems confronting Canadian coal might assist the Commission to understand some of the proposals we shall put forth later.



Initially the coal mines of the Dominion are located far from the centers of consumption. In both the Eastern and Western Provinces transportation charges are an effective competitive barrier as far as coal sales are concerned. The population density of the Dominion is centered in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, which contain over 50% of the total population and the vast bulk of industry and commerce. Since coal must be carried over one thousand miles in the east and over two thousand miles in the west, it obviously has trouble entering the only large scale market available to it.

The production of Canadian mines is so low that it raises the price of the product out of competitive range. The principle cause of this is in the nature of the coal seams and their lack of suitability to the introduction of labor saving devices. Because of this the f.o.b. mine price has been kept too high in relation to the other fuels.

The third adverse factor has been a superabundance of competing fuels. Often these fuels are in a much better position to fill Canadian energy needs than coal. These three are natural gas and oil from Western Canada, bituminous coal from the United States, and foreign oil, principally from Venezuela. During the past ten years these three sources, most notably oil and natural gas, have expanded rapidly. Viewing the long term trend, petroleum and natural gas will continue to expand and consolidate their hold as the dominant energy sources of Canada.



In summary, the coal industry faces five seemingly insurmountable obstacles:

1. Its location in areas far removed from the principal centers of population and manufacture.
2. Its unsuitability for the introduction of labour saving machinery which would enable it to lower the cost of production and thus be in a more competitive position in the energy market.
3. The abundance of other fuels, especially petroleum and natural gas, under circumstances which place them in an extremely advantageous position.
4. The rapid conversion of the Canadian railroads from coal-firing to diesel locomotives, thus eliminating one of the principal markets for Canadian coal.
5. The attitude on the part of domestic consumers that coal is an old fashioned, dirty fuel, unsuitable for use and their resultant conversion to other fuels.

The social and economic consequences of this slow collapse must be measured in terms of human considerations and economic effect.

Briefs submitted separately by District 18 and 26 of the United Mine Workers of America outline in a more specific way the loss of jobs brought about by the decrease in coal production in their own Districts. What we want to reemphasize here is the necessity of alleviating the human problems caused by unemployment.





Unemployment is one economic ill which demands solution. No other economic ill affects individuals within an area more than mass joblessness of their region. The economic stagnation apparent in the coal fields of Canada represent a cancer on the future economic prosperity of the Dominion. The spectre of unemployment is repulsive to a country which aspires to ascend the heights. We cannot afford it. We cannot allow it. Distressed families and terrible living conditions are the forerunners of social decay and moral degeneration. Nations do not grow on such material.

Thus, we feel it necessary to consider the problem of unemployment which is a direct result of coal's decline. But it is a situation which cannot be evaluated on its economic merits. The question is one in which people are the pawns, and human suffering on a vast scale is the price of a wrong move.

Several months ago International Board Member Delaney of District 26, United Mine Workers of America, toured Districts in the United States to observe the conditions there. Although the causes are different in many cases, the result of unemployment is the same. Entire states have felt the constant economic pressure when thousands of citizens lose the only jobs many of them know -- coal mining. Tax revenues decline, schools, churches and other institutions fall into disrepair. This headlong flight into oblivion is self-generating. The more people unemployed, the greater the need, but with a constantly diminishing source of



revenue. What is needed here is a whole new approach, a fresh look, as it were, to an age-old problem.

Economically we have witnessed an entire industry rush headlong toward dissolution. Despite this experience, experts, both north and south of the border, are busily outdoing each other predicting a millennium for coal.

The apparent contradiction between our present pallid industry and the envisioned robust giant of the future illustrates the economic tragedy which is occurring in Canadian coal. The industry is in no position to meet future obligations. Vanishing markets and declining production are signs of decay and obsolescence, not health and future potential.

The question we must ask ourselves is whether or not Canada can allow her coal industry to so deteriorate. Probably those who do not heed the experience of other nations or lack the vision necessary for national growth would allow such a valuable natural resource to be thus wasted. Fortunately, however, the more farsighted will realize that coal has been the basic energy source of every major industrial power. This was true in England, on the Continent and in the United States. Even the Soviet Union and Communist China are feverishly exploiting to the maximum coal resources in their countries.

Our experience in two world wars is a good indication of the indispensibility of coal. In both instances every major power was forced to rely on coal for their basic energy needs.





In fact, the Germans developed many ingenious synthetic products from coal which materially aided their war effort.

Our contention is simply this: Nature has endowed the Dominion of Canada with many valuable resources. One of the most important of these is coal. Utilization to the fullest extent of this valuable resource will be of great benefit to all of Canada. If the coal industry is to fulfill the responsibilities expected of it in the years ahead, steps must be taken today to make coal mining areas bustling centers of prosperity, rather than dark areas of unemployment.

Quite obviously, the problems confronting the coal industry in Canada are of staggering dimensions. Solutions, if there are any, will probably be complex and involved. We recognize that political, as well as economic, factors must be weighed carefully by this Commission in reaching any definite conclusion or proposing any program.

The situation as we see it may be viewed from two aspects: The short term and the long range solution. Both areas are critical. Obviously any program must not sacrifice the long term interest of the Dominion in favor of short range panaceas. But we must constantly remember that the short term problem is made up of Canadian citizens in desperate need of assistance.

The basic need for coal in the short run is to stabilize markets and production and to render assistance to coal miners unemployed or working short time. Many of the remedies proposed



do provide for such short term assistance. However, as previously stated, long and short range plans must not act contrary to one another.

We would seriously consider a policy whereby the buildings and other installations of the Federal and Provincial governments would consume coal for heating and other applicable purposes. Tonnages consumed in this way would provide one secure outlet for Canadian coal which could be used as a marketing base. The first step in initiating the use of coal in Provincial and Federal government buildings would be a study to ascertain the tonnage involved and the benefit the Canadian coal industry could derive by a market of this kind. Our National Headquarters in Washington, D. C., has found that in the United States and Canada coal has been discriminated against by various government agencies in favor of competing fuels. We should think, in light of all the facts presented to this Commission, that our government would seek to aid coal in every way possible.

Unemployed coal miners are not a Canadian rarity. Thousands of men all over the world have been thrown out of work because of the decline in coal production. In the United States it is estimated by our organization that over 110,000 men are thus unemployed. A special committee of the U. S. Senate has been designated to study this one problem. In testifying before that committee, Mr. Michael F. Widman, Jr., Assistant to the President and Director of the Research and Marketing Department



of the United Mine Workers of America, outlined the need for a constructive program to aid the unemployed when he said:

"We are going to ask that the Government of the United States help the citizens of our great republic who live in distressed areas. These men and women do not seek charity. They demand the right to provide for their families by useful labor. We do not feel that it is too much to ask our own government.... to help these people help themselves."

In order to alleviate the immediate effects of unemployment, the Unemployment Insurance should be paid for the duration of the unemployed period. The unemployment system provides the necessities of life to those unfortunate men unable to find work. It cannot with propriety or in logic or in common sense be classified as a dole. The United Mine Workers of America maintains that there cannot be dire poverty in Canada, when the vast majority of our citizens are enjoying the highest standard of life in history. Poverty in the midst of plenty is an intolerable incongruity, the existence of which we cannot afford.

Complementing the payment of unemployment insurance, we feel that a vast program of worker rehabilitation should be undertaken. In this way men who find their skills inadequate in a fast changing industrial world will be in a more advantageous position in securing job opportunities. In addition, the





Canadian miner will be able to adjust to new conditions and job opportunities, maintain his pride and self-respect and, most important, make a contribution to the general welfare of the nation. An investment in our human resources is the most important expenditure any government can make. The Canadian coal miner has a long record of service to his community and his country. All he asks is an opportunity to continue this service.

While we understand the complexities attending upon foreign commerce, the present plight of the domestic coal industry requires that a concrete examination be undertaken of the economic and trade aspects of extending the Canadian market to the Canadian coal industry. Such an investigation should scrutinize closely the increasing dependence by industry upon foreign energy sources, especially those requiring ocean transport. The lessons of World War II were purchased at an extremely high price. We believe that in the interest of our national defence our Government should weigh carefully the availability of our energy sources under any and all circumstances.

The problems of the coal industry of the world are strikingly similar. Old patterns of consumption are vanishing. If the industry here or elsewhere is to survive, it must undertake continuing, vigorous and co-ordinated research supported by ample funds from the government.

The importance of research in the long range surmounts all other considerations. In fact, without research any and all



stop-gap measures cannot succeed. Research is the principle means of salvation for the Canadian coal industry.

Research for coal would serve two valuable purposes:

1. By discovering new methods of utilization, additional markets will arise to take the place of present markets which are constantly being eroded by competing fuels.
2. Widespread chemical uses of coal could well result in huge industrial complexes springing up in coal fields which would not only end the coal unemployment problem, but would provide employment for many others in allied industry.

The potential for research is almost limitless. We would like to cite a few illustrations to indicate the general scope of potential projects with staggering dimensions.

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia, U.S.A., recently published a report on a diesel engine using pulverized bituminous coal as fuel. The report is the result of a test conducted by V.P.I. on an invention by a Mr. R. E. Harvey of Roanoke, Virginia. The idea behind the invention is hardly new. The original diesel engine was fired by coal. An associate of Dr. Diesel actually ran a coal-fired diesel for many years. Unfortunately, the data on his work was lost to the Russians since the town where it was located is now behind the Iron Curtain.

But consider for a moment the results which a coal-fired



diesel engine would have for Canadian coal. A market now almost totally lost would be regained. Railroad use would inject new life into the dormant coal fields. The fact that a coal-fired diesel engine has been tested should be a spur to our own research efforts.

Recently a Curtiss-Wright Corporation in the United States announced a road paving material using bituminous coal. This material would substitute for oil-based asphalt. The principle of the new process is simple. Raw Coal is dissolved in coal tar which is made in one of two ways, either in the coke making process, or by low temperature carbonization. Strips of road using the coal binder have already been laid and are being tested in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Other states, including Colorado, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and New Mexico have shown a keen interest in the process. Curtiss-Wright Corporation and the Peabody Coal Company have formed a joint corporation to manufacture and sell the road binder. The magnitude of the market may be measured when we consider that over two thousand tons of raw coal will be used to lay one mile of road. This figure includes the coal used in the tar making process. Early reports from Kentucky indicate favorable results. Driveways and airport runways are other outlets for the material, since it does not dissolve in the presence of petroleum products. It is just another example of what research can do.





The Reading Anthracite Company located in the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania is planning to build a chemical plant to extract raw chemicals from anthracite silt. If successful, an entire new industry will be born. Additionally, more coal will be required after the silt is exhausted. But most importantly, a chronically depressed area will receive a most welcome economic boost.

These few examples indicate the potential existing in research. The future of the coal industry lies in a wider area of use, the means to, and the knowledge of which are, until now, a factor of relative insignificance. Consequently, a greater and coordinated program of research into the possible uses of coal should be undertaken by the Federal Government with the continuing and vigorous co-operation of the governments of the five provinces where coal is produced. Research should be stepped up and some of the monies asked for in the form of subsidies should be plowed into research. Such monies should be an annual budgetary allocation on a continuing basis. In short, the individual efforts now being undertaken by separate provinces and universities should be pulled together into a national concerted program of well planned research.

One final long range solution to coal's problems is worthy of consideration. As the industrial economy of Canada grows, her need for power is certain to expand apace. Obviously, the water power now widely used will prove inadequate. Since a



new power source will have to be found, we would suggest that consideration be given to the expanded use of coal as a principal or supplemental energy source. In the United States, for example, coal supplies 55% of all electricity generated. Even the Tennessee Valley Authority, which was originally all hydro, has become the largest single consumer of bituminous coal in the world. Government aid in this area would serve a two-fold purpose:

1. It would be of considerable benefit to the coal industry and would provide vast new markets for it.
2. It would assure Canada of adequate energy to power the industrial development now and in the future.

The problems of coal are not impossible to solve. The efforts of all interested groups joined together in the common cause will go a long way to reviving the industry. The United Mine Workers of America pledges its unstinting efforts in this cause.

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We request your Commission to give serious consideration to these important problems, and trust that you may be able to recommend a suitable solution.

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## SUMMARY

We recommend:

- I The full utilization of Canadian Coal be made before any imports of American Coal be considered, and the immediate establishment of a National Coal Policy, which would permit the marketing of all Canadian Coal in order that the National economy will be assured in the event of emergency.
- II The Government increase the tariff on coal imported from the United States. By so doing, a higher subsidy or subvention could be paid on coal produced in Western Canada, which would place the industry in a better competitive position in the markets of the large industrial areas in Ontario, or
- III A quota system should be instituted by the Government, which would divert 2 1/2 million tons of imported coal, which can be produced in Western Canada and subsidies should be paid on the transportation of all coal.
- IV The Federal and Provincial Governments should assist by arranging that all Federal and Provincial Institutions use only Canadian Coal, which would allow additional outlets for Canadian Coal in the Central Provinces.
- V That all Thermal Power Plants use coal as a fuel which would expand the industrial markets in Western Canada. Assistance as previously stated should be granted in the building of such plants. (We have been advised that



Thermal Power Plants in the Eastern Provinces have received assistance from the Federal Government for construction purposes.)

- VI The Federal Government should co-operate with the Provincial Governments in continuing and expanding the research work on Coal which is being carried on at present.
- VII Centres be established by the Government in depressed Coal Mining areas for the purpose of giving Vocational training to miners who have lost their employment in the coal mines in order that they can become rehabilitated in other industries.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of  
District 18, United Mine Workers of America

Edward Boyd President

Wm. H. H. H. Secretary-Treasurer







